

REMARKS

Claims 38-72 are pending in the application after entry of the amendment. Originally filed claims 1-38 were subject to election in the Restriction/Election Requirement mailed March 23, 2006.

The applicants respectfully traverse the Election Requirement to the extent that it proposes election between alleged species I – IX. The applicant submit there are four species, as follows: species I directed to a transducer incorporating a tunnel having a tapered portion providing shock protection as shown in Figs. 1-13; species II directed to a transducer having a tunnel including a raised portion as shown in Figs. 14-16; species III directed to a transducer including spacers as shown in Figs. 17-18 and species IV directed to a transducer including active shock protection as shown in Figs. 19-23.

With the amendment to the claims the applicants hereby elect claims of species I, as defined above by the applicant, directed to Figs. 1-13. The amended claims read on this species of a transducer including a tunnel having a tapered portion. The applicant further submits that claims 39 and 72 are generic.

The applicants are cognizant that the examiner identified differing species for providing a tunnel having a tapered portion. Should the examiner maintain that these alternate embodiments of a transducer with a tunnel having a tapered portion are distinct species, then the applicants elect the species of Figs. 10 and 11, wherein the magnet is formed to have a taper. The applicant then offers to withdraw claims 44, 46, 48-55, 61, 63 and 65-72 pending allowance of claims 39 and 56.

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Respectfully submitted,

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